

24-26. Cancel.

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the outstanding Action. Claims 3-23 are now pending with claims 3, 16, 18 and 21 being independent. Claims 1, 2 and 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer of subject matter. Each of the points raised in the outstanding Action are addressed below.

Allowable Claims

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 3-23 are allowable, and remained unchanged in the current response.

Rejection of Claims 1-2 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under §102 as reciting subject matter allegedly anticipated by either U.S. patent 3,580,163 (Farrell Jr.) or U.S. patent 6,051,266 (Totsuka). Since Applicant has now canceled these claims, this rejection is now considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 24-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 24-26 were rejection under §102 as being anticipated by Farrell. Since these claims have also been canceled, this rejection is now considered moot as well. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

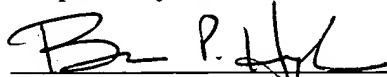
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Since claims 3-23 have been previously indicated as allowed, and these claims are the only claims remaining in the application, Applicants expect to receive a Notice of Allowance for the subject application in due course. **Applicants respectfully request that should the Examiner have additional concerns or reasons for not issuing a Notice of Allowance, that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining concerns.**

No fees are believed due in the present response save for the fee for extending the time period for response. However, in the event that it is determined that additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0311, referencing the attorney docket number of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 935-3000. All correspondence should be directed to our New York office address, which is given below.

Date: November 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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